

NORTH AMERICAN

WETLANDS

CONSERVATION ACT

# project flash

## Kansas Partnership Receives \$646,500 for Wetlands Project

On September 8, 2004, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, as authorized under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, approved **\$646,500** in funding for the **McPherson Valley Wetlands Phase V Project** in **Kansas' McPherson County in Congressional District 1**. The Act is nonregulatory and calls for voluntary partnerships to develop and implement wetlands and associated uplands projects to benefit wildlife. Projects must meet certain biological criteria to be considered for funding, and partners must be able to match the grant request 1:1 with nonfederal funds. This project's partnership exceeded the match requirement with **\$1,321,378** and added **\$22,727** in nonmatching funds.

Prior to settlement, McPherson Valley contained 52 shallow marshes 10 to 500 acres in size, providing more than 9,000 surface-acres of water. With westward expansion, most of the land was converted to agriculture, until fewer than 10 of the original natural wetlands remained. In wet years, these temporarily held enough water to provide limited wildlife habitat.

In phases I through IV, partners acquired 4,300 acres of the valley's original wetlands and restored some 1,415 acres. In this the project's final phase, partners will purchase 300 acres more and restore 375 acres of previous acquisitions into 8 to 13 marsh units having water-management capability, plus restore 320 upland acres. Additionally, 100 acres of wetlands will be enhanced via land contouring. Upon completion, this project will have restored much of the valley's historic wetland values.

These wetlands provide migration and wintering habitat for numerous **Central Flyway** waterfowl species such as northern pintail, mallard, redhead, and canvasback. An additional 44 nonwaterfowl species that breed, winter, or migrate through the Central Mixed Grass Prairie, including several federally listed threatened or endangered species, also will benefit.

Humans will reap rewards, too, through expanded hunting, birding, nature education, and research opportunities. Increased wildlife-associated tourism will benefit local economies, and communities will appreciate the improved water quality, flood-water control, and groundwater recharge and reduced soil erosion.

Project partners include Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Westar Energy, Koch Pipeline Company, L.P., Pheasants Forever, Inc., George Stumps, Wildlife Trust, and Archer Daniels Midland. Their work also advances the habitat goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's **Playa Lakes Joint Venture**.

*For more information about this project, contact Scott Manley, Director of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., (573) 290-5858 [smanley@ducks.org](mailto:smanley@ducks.org), or David Buie, Standard Grants Program Proposal Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (301) 497-5870, [david\\_buie@fws.gov](mailto:david_buie@fws.gov).*

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